



Brownfields Showcase Community

Cape Charles/Northampton County, VA

Outreach and Special Projects Staff (5105)

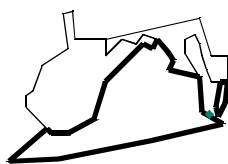
Quick Reference Fact Sheet

Brownfields are abandoned, idled or underused industrial and commercial properties where expansion or redevelopment is complicated by real or perceived contamination. In May 1997, Vice President Gore announced a Brownfields National Partnership to bring together the resources of more than 15 federal agencies to address local cleanup and reuse issues in a more coordinated manner. In 1998, this multi-agency partnership designated 16 "Brownfields Showcase Communities"—models demonstrating the benefits of collaborative activity on brownfields. In October 2000, the partnership selected 12 additional "Brownfields Showcase Communities" to continue the success of the initiative. The Brownfields Showcase Communities are distributed across the country and vary by size, resources, and community type. A wide range of support will be leveraged, depending on the particular needs of each Showcase Community.

BACKGROUND

The Brownfields National Partnership has selected the Town of Cape Charles and Northampton County, Virginia as a Brownfields Showcase Community. The site has the distinction as one of the original 15 EPA Brownfields Assessment Pilots, and was named as an Enterprise Community by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Rich in pollution prevention efforts, the site is also one of four national eco-industrial park demonstration projects. By preserving greenspace, building eco-efficient infrastructures, and supplying hundreds of jobs, the Cape Charles/Northampton County project is anticipated to stimulate economic and environmental renewal in one of the most impoverished areas in the nation, and the poorest within the Commonwealth of Virginia, where 27 percent of its 13,000 residents live in poverty.

Community Profile



Cape Charles/
Northampton County, Virginia

The Town of Cape Charles and Northampton County, Virginia has revitalized a former brownfields site into a nationally renowned Sustainable Technology Industrial Park. With a projected creation of 1,500 jobs, innovative pollution prevention initiatives, and habitat conservation planning, this former brownfields site is an economic and environmental restoration effort in the making.

To re-establish economic prosperity, the Cape Charles/Northampton County community is developing the park as a world class research/development and manufacturing center, focusing on green businesses, products, and processes. Development of the park has given innovative companies the opportunity to establish themselves in the Cape Charles/Northampton County area and build a workforce from local talent.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

Intensive planning by the Sustainable Technology Park Authority of Cape Charles and Northampton County, along with more than \$5 million from federal, state, and private investors, will spawn an eye-catching 200-acre eco-park. So far, construction of a 31,000-square-foot solar powered "green" building, and preservation of approximately 90 acres of combined coastal and land habitat has been

completed. In addition, Phase I cleanup which involved an environmental assessment of an abandoned 25-acre town dump and harbor front has been completed along with roads, utilities, and other infrastructure.

SHOWCASE COMMUNITY OBJECTIVES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES

One hundred and thirty acres of land has been purchased with local dollars and planning is underway for Phase II which will include more green building and establishment of greenspace (e.g. construction of parks, playgrounds, trails, gardens, habitat restoration, open space, and/or greenspace preservation). The Sustainable Technology Park Authority plans to use a portion of the former town dump site along with some adjacent land as a conference and training facility for the park. The park will also include an educational facility and a tertiary sewage treatment system.

Contacts

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For more information on the Brownfields Showcase Communities, visit the EPA Brownfields Web site at:
<http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/showcase.htm>.